

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
EASTERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PAULA R. MYERS,

Defendant.

No. CR03-2047-LRR

No. C05-2015-LRR

ORDER

This matter comes before the court on the defendant's motion to vacate, set aside or correct her sentence (Docket No. 26). The defendant's motion was filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255.¹ For the following reasons, the defendant's 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion shall be denied.²

¹ If a prisoner is in custody pursuant to a sentence imposed by a federal court and such prisoner claims "that the sentence was imposed in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States, or that the court was without jurisdiction to impose such sentence, or that the sentence was in excess of the maximum authorized by law, or is otherwise subject to collateral attack, [the prisoner] may move the court which imposed the sentence to vacate, set aside or correct the sentence." 28 U.S.C. § 2255. *See also Daniels v. United States*, 532 U.S. 374, 377, 121 S. Ct. 1578, 149 L. Ed. 2d 590 (2001).

² No response from the government is required because the motion and file make clear that the defendant is not entitled to relief. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255; Rule 4(b), Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings. Similarly, an evidentiary hearing is not necessary. *See id.* *See also Engelen v. United States*, 68 F.3d 238, 240-41 (8th Cir. 1995) (stating district court may summarily dismiss a motion brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 without
(continued...)

I. BACKGROUND

On September 23, 2003, the government filed an information against the defendant. On October 14, 2003, the defendant appeared before Chief Magistrate Judge John A. Jarvey for her arraignment, initial appearance and plea hearing. At such hearing, the defendant pleaded guilty to making a building available for the purpose of unlawful manufacturing, storing, distributing and using a controlled substance.³ On the same day, Chief Magistrate Judge John A. Jarvey entered a report and recommendation that a United States District Court Judge accept the defendant's plea of guilty. On October 29, 2003, the court entered an order adopting the report and recommendation pertaining to the defendant's guilty plea. On April 2, 2004, the court sentenced the defendant to 78 months imprisonment and 2 years supervised release. On April 5, 2004, judgment entered against the defendant. The defendant did not file an appeal.

On January 28, 2005, the defendant filed the instant motion. In the 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion, the defendant challenges her conviction and resulting sentence based on one alleged error. Specifically, the defendant states she received an "unlawful sentence in violation of *U.S. v. Booker* and *U.S. v. Fanfan*, *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, *Teague v. Lane* and *Dodd v. U.S.*." To support her statement, the defendant argues that she "was given

(...continued)

an evidentiary hearing "if (1) the . . . allegations, accepted as true, would not entitle the [movant] to relief, or (2) the allegations cannot be accepted as true because they are contradicted by the record, inherently incredible, or conclusions rather than statements of fact"); *United States v. Oldham*, 787 F.2d 454, 457 (8th Cir. 1986) (stating district court is given discretion in determining whether to hold an evidentiary hearing on a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255).

³ The conduct charged in the information is in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 856 and 18 U.S.C. § 2.

a Level 27 and sentenced to 78 months pursuant to the federal guidelines now held to be unconstitutional.”

The court now turns to consider the defendant’s motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

II. ANALYSIS

A. Standards Applicable to Motion Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255

28 U.S.C. § 2255 allows a prisoner in custody under sentence of a federal court to move the sentencing court to vacate, set aside or correct a sentence. To obtain relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255, a federal prisoner must establish: (1) the sentence was imposed in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States; (2) the court was without jurisdiction to impose such sentence; (3) the sentence was in excess of the maximum authorized by law; or (4) his sentence is otherwise subject to collateral attack. *See Hill v. United States*, 368 U.S. 424, 426-27, 82 S. Ct. 468, 7 L. Ed. 2d 417 (1962) (citing 28 U.S.C. § 2255).

Although it appears to be broad, 28 U.S.C. § 2255 does not provide a remedy for “all claimed errors in conviction and sentencing.” *United States v. Addonizio*, 442 U.S. 178, 185, 99 S. Ct. 2235, 60 L. Ed. 2d 805 (1979). Rather, 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is intended to redress only “fundamental defect[s] which inherently [result] in a complete miscarriage of justice” and “omission[s] inconsistent with the rudimentary demands of fair procedure.” *Hill*, 368 U.S. at 428. *See also United States v. Apfel*, 97 F.3d 1074, 1076 (8th Cir. 1996) (“Relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is reserved for transgressions of constitutional rights and for a narrow range of injuries that could not have been raised for the first time on direct appeal and, if uncorrected, would result in a complete miscarriage of justice.”) (citing *Poor Thunder v. United States*, 810 F.2d 817, 821 (8th Cir. 1987)). A collateral challenge under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is not interchangeable or substitutable for a direct

appeal. *See United States v. Frady*, 456 U.S. 152, 165, 102 S. Ct. 1584, 71 L. Ed. 2d 816 (1982) (making clear a motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 will not be allowed to do service for an appeal). Consequently, “[a]n error that may justify reversal on direct appeal will not necessarily support a collateral attack on a final judgment.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

In addition, defendants ordinarily are precluded from asserting claims they failed to raise on direct appeal. *See McNeal v. United States*, 249 F.3d 747, 749 (8th Cir. 2001). “A defendant who has procedurally defaulted a claim by failing to raise it on direct review may raise the claim in a [28 U.S.C. §] 2255 proceeding only by demonstrating cause for the default and prejudice or actual innocence.” *Id.* (citing *Bousley v. United States*, 523 U.S. 614, 622, 118 S. Ct. 1604, 140 L. Ed. 2d 828 (1998)). *See also Massaro v. United States*, 538 U.S. 500, 504, 123 S. Ct. 1690, 155 L. Ed. 2d 714 (2003) (“The general rule [is] that claims not raised on direct appeal may not be raised on collateral review unless the [defendant] shows cause and prejudice.”). “[C]ause’ under the cause and prejudice test must be something *external* to the [defendant], something that cannot be fairly attributed to him.” *Coleman v. Thompson*, 501 U.S. 722, 753, 111 S. Ct. 2546, 115 L. Ed. 2d 640 (1991) (emphasis in original). If a defendant fails to show cause, a court need not consider whether actual prejudice exists. *McCleskey v. Zant*, 499 U.S. 467, 501, 111 S. Ct. 1454, 113 L. Ed. 2d 517 (1991). Actual innocence under the actual innocence test “means factual innocence, not mere legal insufficiency.” *Bousley*, 523 U.S. at 623-24. *See also McNeal*, 249 F.3d at 749 (“[A] defendant must show factual innocence, not simply legal insufficiency of evidence to support a conviction.”).⁴

⁴ The procedural default rule applies to a conviction obtained through trial or through the entry of a guilty plea. *See United States v. Cain*, 134 F.3d 1345, 1352 (8th Cir. 2000) (continued...)

B. The Defendant's Claim

The defendant's reliance on *United States v. Booker*, ___ U.S. ___, 125 S. Ct. 738, 160 L. Ed. 2d 621 (2005), to challenge her conviction and resulting sentence is unavailing. On January 12, 2005, the Supreme Court concluded the Sixth Amendment is violated by the imposition of an enhanced sentence under the United States Sentencing Guidelines based on the sentencing judge's determination of a fact (other than a prior conviction) that was not found by the jury or admitted by the defendant. *Booker*, ___ U.S. at ___, 125 S. Ct. at 756, 160 L. Ed. 2d at 650 (applying its decisions in *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, 530 U.S. 466, 120 S. Ct. 2348, 147 L. Ed. 2d 435 (2000), and *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. ___, 124 S. Ct. 2531, 159 L. Ed. 2d 403 (2004), to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines). In addition, the Supreme Court, with respect to the appropriate remedy, instructed courts to apply *Booker* or its "holdings—both the Sixth Amendment holding and [the] remedial interpretation of the Sentencing Act—to all cases on direct review." *Booker*, ___ U.S. at ___, 125 S. Ct. at 769, 160 L. Ed. 2d at 665 (citing *Griffith v. Kentucky*, 479 U.S. 314, 328, 107 S. Ct. 708, 93 L. Ed. 2d 649 (1987)). Given such instruction, the court finds the Supreme Court does not intend for its holdings in *Booker* to apply retroactively to cases on collateral review. *See Teague v. Lane*, 489 U.S. 288, 307, 109 S. Ct. 1060, 103 L. Ed. 2d 334 (1989) (prohibiting the application of new rules of criminal procedure on collateral review, except where the new rule places certain kinds of conduct beyond the power of the government to proscribe or requires the observance of procedures that are "implicit in the concept of ordered liberty"). Consequently, the defendant's claim

⁴(...continued)
Cir. 1997); *Walker v. United States*, 115 F.3d 603, 605 (8th Cir. 1997); *Matthews v. United States*, 114 F.3d 112, 113 (8th Cir. 1997); *Thomas v. United States*, 112 F.3d 365, 366 (8th Cir. 1997); *Reid v. United States*, 976 F.2d 446, 448 (8th Cir. 1992).


which relies on *Booker* fails.⁵ With respect to the other cases the defendant cites, the court finds them equally unavailing.

In sum, the defendant failed to state a claim which warrants relief. Accordingly, the defendant's motion to vacate, set aside or correct her sentence shall be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The defendant's motion to vacate, set aside or correct her sentence (Docket No. 26) is DENIED.

DATED this 4th day of May, 2005.



LINDA R. READE
JUDGE, U. S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

⁵ The court notes the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals has not addressed this issue. Nonetheless, a review of applicable case law indicates the consensus of circuit courts is that *Booker* does not apply retroactively on collateral review. *See, e.g., Cirilo-Munoz v. United States*, No. 02-1846, 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS 6343, at *16 (1st Cir. Apr. 15, 2005); *Guzman v. United States*, No. 03-2446, 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS 5700, at *4 (2d Cir. Apr. 8, 2005); *Varela v. United States*, 400 F.3d 864, 866-68 (11th Cir. 2005); *Humphress v. United States*, 398 F.3d 855, 860-63 (6th Cir. 2005); *McReynolds v. United States*, 397 F.3d 479, 480-81 (7th Cir. 2005). *Cf. In re Olopade*, No. 05-1617, 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS 5886, at *1 (3d Cir. Apr. 11, 2005) (denying permission to file a second or successive motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255); *Bey v. United States*, 399 F.3d 1266, 1269 (10th Cir. 2005) (same); *Green v. United States*, 397 F.3d 101, 103 (2d Cir. 2005) (same); *In re Anderson*, 396 F.3d 1336, 1340 (11th Cir. 2005) (same).